

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 06664 011628Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /071 W

----- 128539

P R 011517Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9845

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 6664

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: OCT 1 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT INTERVIEWS BY SYRIAN

JOURNALISTS WITH

METN INHABITANTS

1. MEDIA FOCUSED ON FAVORABLE COMMENTS CONCERNING SYRIAN INTERVENTION ELICITED FROM INHABITANTS OF METN REGION BY SYRIAN AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. PRESS BANNERED: "AFTER MONTHS OF CHAOS, TERRORISM AND INSTABILITY, INHABITANTS OF MOUNT LEBANON RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE AFTER REGION PURGED OF DISORDERLY ELEMENTS. NOT ONE SINGLE SHOT HAS BEEN FIRED IN MOUNTAIN AREA IN PAST TWO DAYS. INHABITANTS OF KAFR SALWAN WELCOME OUR FORCES. ARAB AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS GET FIRST-HAND VIEW OF RETURN OF PEACE TO MOUNT LEBANON. INHABITANTS OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGES CALLED UPON TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. COMMAND OF LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS ANNOUNCES-- 'MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER IN MOUNTAIN REGION NECESSARY FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 06664 011628Z

RESTORATION OF NATIONAL COHESION AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY."

2. MEDIA NOTED BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND CONTINUES TO RECEIVE CABLES WHICH CONDEMN SEMIRAMIS INCIDENT. PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI VISITED WOUNDED WHO REMAIN IN HOSPITAL. REGIONAL COMMAND OF UNIFIED PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION, ENTITY AFFILIATED WITH BAATH PARTY,' DENOUNCED SEMIRAMIS CRIME AND CHARGED THAT SOME ARAB REGIMES-- EGYPT AND IRAQ IN PARTICULAR--WORKING TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN CAUSE BY MOTIVATING PALESTINIANS TO CONTINUE FIGHTING IN LEBANON. STATEMENT ALSO CRITICIZED "CERTAIN PALESTINIAN LEADERS" WHO SERVE EGYPTIAN AND IRAQI INTERESTS.

3. AL-THAWRAH EDITORIAL EXTOLLED SUCCESS OF METN CAMPAIGN, CLAIMING THAT BY CONNECTING MOUNT LEBANON WITH BEKAA, AFTER RESTORING ORDER TO LARGE AREA OF LEBANON FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, THREAT OF PARTITION HAS BEEN AVERTED. RESTORATION OF PEACE TO MOUNT LEBANON WITH MINIMUM OF CLASHES AND VICTIMS IS NEW AFFIRMATION OF PIONEERING ROLE OF SYRIAN ARMY." AL-BAATH COLUMNIST POSED RHETORICAL QUESTION WHAT KIND OF PEACE SADAT WANTED IN LEBANON WHEN "HE EXPRESSING READINESS TO DISPATCH MOST MODERN WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION TO LEBANON. NO DOUBT IT IS FATAL PEACE EXCELLED IN BY AMERICAN AND ISRAELI ALLIES OF EGYPT."

4. COMMENT: RECAPITULATION OF SARG MEDIA VIEW OF LEBANESE CRISIS AND LATEST MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN MTN INCLUDES FOLLOWING POINTS: U.S., ISRAEL, AND EGYPT COOPERATED TOGETHER TO HEIGHTEN TENSIONS IN LEBANON TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM ATTEMPTS TO NEGOTIATE AND THEN GAIN ARAB APPROVAL FOR SINAI ACCORD. IRAQIS ALSO JOINED CONSPIRACY BY LINKING UP WITH EGYPT. SOME PALESTINIAN LEADERS HAVE DIVERTED PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT FROM EFFORTS TO REGAIN PALESTINE TO INVOLVEMENT IN CONFESSIONAL WAR IN LEBANON OF PERIPHERAL IMPORTANCE TO THEIR OWN BECAUSE THEY TOO HAVE BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH CONSPIRACY. SYRIAN, HOWEVER, HAS EXERTED STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO RESIST PLOT AND PREVENT PARTITION OF LEBANON. SYRIA HELPED INSTALL LEBANESE PRES. ACCEPTABLE TO MOST PARTIES. SYRIAN ARMY HAS RESTORED LAW AND ORDER TO SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF LEBANESE TERRITORY WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE FALLEN UNDER IMPERIALIST INFLUENCE. ARMY SAVED LIVES OF MANY ARABS LIVING IN THIS TERRITORY. SYRIAN ACTIONS HAVE LED TO POSITIVE RESULTS--NORMAL LIVING CONDITIONS HAVE RETURNED TO BEKAA, SOME REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO NABAA, AND NOW MEN HAS BEEN PACIFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DAMASC 06664 011628Z

AND LEBANESE INVITED TO RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGES. SYRIAN MILITARY ALSO PERFORMING USEFUL FUNCTION BY STRENGTHENING LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS, LATTER WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY PROVIDE BASIS FOR RECONSTRUCTED AND REUNIFIED LEBANESE SECURITY FORCE. IN SUM, SYRIAN MILITARY HAVE BEEN WELCOMED BY LEBANESE BECAUSE TANGIBLE BENEFITS RESULT FROM SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE.

5. U.S. JOURNALIST WHO ACCOMPANIED SYRIAN CORRESPONDENTS TO METN AREA SEPT 30 TOLD US GROUP HAD GOTTEN LOST SEVERAL TIMES. ONLY FIRM DESTINATION WAS AINTOURA FOR INTERVIEW WITH LTC HAJ OF VANGUARDS ARMY. AT DRUZE VILLAGE OF KAHR SALWAN, GROUP HAD WITNESSED TOWN LEADERS BEGGING SYRIAN ARMY OFFICERS TO PROTECT THEM FROM PHALANGE WHICH HAD REPORTEDLY ALREADY BEGUN EXECUTIONS IN OTHER RECAPTURED VILLAGES. JOURNALIST ALSO QUOTED HAJ AS STATING VANGUARDS OF LEBANESE ARAB ARMY NOW CONSISTED OF TWO BRIGADES TOTALING 5-6,000 MEN. THEY HAD TAKEN ONLY SIX OR SEVEN CASUALTIES IN METN OPERATION, HAJ SAID.
MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC06664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760370-1023
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761094/aaaaddfp.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCT 1 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT INTERVIEWS BY SYRIAN JOURNALISTS WITH METN INHABITANTS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006